

Respected Members of the FCC:

The decision to implement these ideas is a heavy one, with dire consequences. Over the last few years, the media industries have attempted to strangle-hold consumers and remove long-held rights. One of these rights is the right to record broadcasted video for personal, in-home use. Electing to require equipment to respect the 'broadcast flag' potentially removes that right.

If I want to record 'Friends' to watch at a later date, I have that right. If I am paying for a broadcast into my home, I should have the ability to record that broadcast for viewing at a time convenient to me. Besides the social implications of implicitly requiring consumers to be in one place, at one time, to view a television broadcast (also read: ridiculous), there is no real benefit to such a flag. Digital to analog conversion must happen, and in that, the ability to record is still there. It will have the net effect of reducing consumer interest in the broadcasts (why pay for something if the only way you are going to see it, PERIOD, is to be in front of your television at 8:00 on Tuesday?) and increasing piracy of the shows for the people who refuse to settle for the ludicrous treatment that these ideas imply.

Commision members, please put a stop to this violation of consumer rights and the rampant, blind drives for total control by media companies.

Sincerely yours: Peter Kline